DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 461 677 UD 031 727

AUTHOR Dentler, Robert A.; Hafner, Anne L.
TITLE Hosting Newcomers: Structuring Educational Opportunities for Immigrant Children. Sociology of Education Series.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8077-3612-0
PUB DATE 1997-00-00
NOTE 177p.
AVAILABLE FROM Teachers College Press, P.O. 20, Williston, VT 05495-0020 (paperback: ISBN-0-8077-3612-0, $21.95; clothbound: ISBN-0-8077-3613-9, $46). Tel: 800-575-6566 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.teacherscollegepress.com.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative (142) -- Tests/Questionnaires (160)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Achievement; Ancillary School Services; Curriculum; Disadvantaged Youth; Elementary Education; Family Characteristics; *Immigrants; *Minority Groups; *Outcomes of Education; *Racial Differences; Resource Allocation; Urban Areas; Urban Education; *Urban Schools
IDENTIFIERS Arizona; California; Nevada; Opportunity to Learn

ABSTRACT

The study described in this book was designed by the Southwest Regional Laboratory as part of a proposal to create a Metropolitan Center for the Far West Laboratory. The Center would focus on the challenges facing urban educators in its service area. Metropolitan school districts, characterized by high numbers of minority students, successfully meeting the challenges of educating vast numbers of newcomers to the United States were the focus of the study. "Hosting Newcomers" reports on the results of a comparative study of 11 elementary public school districts and 40 of their schools in the metropolitan areas of Arizona, California, and Nevada. These districts showed exceptional enrollment increases from 1980 to 1990, especially for immigrants. Three high-performing, five low-performing, and three stable districts were studied. Opportunity to learn, educational resources, curriculum and instruction, ancillary services, and achievement outcomes were stratified by race, ethnicity, language group, family composition, and income. These analyses identify some of the practices that matter the most in improving education for those recently arrived in the United States. The following chapters are included: (1) "The Challenge of Newcomers"; (2) "The Shape of the Study"; (3) "Clues to Quality: Staff, Instruction, and Programs"; (4) "Community History and Culture"; (5) "District and School Organization"; (6) "Vital Health and Human Services"; and (7) "Conclusions." An appendix presents rating scales used in the study. (Contains 3 figures, 9 tables, and 117 references.) (SLD)

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